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a collecting and incubating apparatus for the microspores." The "carpellary leaf" was shed at maturity and resembles a winged seed.—J. M. C.

The flowering plants of the Mesozoic.—In a recent address SCOTT²¹ has brought together the recent discoveries among the Cycadophytes, especially those of WIELAND among the Bennettitales, and has seen in the structure of their strobili strong suggestions of angiospermous flowers. Such a connection would suggest the possibility that the angiosperms may have been derived from the Filicinae by a "short cut;" that the evolution of the angiospermous flower was a process of reduction; and that the presumption that the simplest angiospermous flowers are the most primitive is no longer tenable.—J. M. C.

The Taxoideae.—Miss ROBERTSON²² has brought together the results of the recent researches among the Taxineae, with the view of reaching some conclusion as to the vexed question of phylogeny. She reaches the conclusion that the group has retained many relatively primitive characters, but has become considerably specialized; that it may be regarded as an offshoot from the Cordaitales, which in turn are derived from the Cycadofilices. The author also suggests that the "female flower" of *Taxus* "more closely recalls that of Cordaites than that of any other known plant."—J. M. C.

Embryology of Rhizophora.—COOK²³ has succeeded in securing some material for the study of the embryology of *R. Mangle*. Only one of the four ovules reaches the seed stage; the hypodermal archesporium cuts off two tapetal cells; the linear tetrad is probably formed; endosperm formation is abundant; the embryogeny is probably of the *Capsella*-type ; during the first growth of the cotyledons about one-third of the embryo and the greater part of the endosperm are thrust out of the sac and lie in the ovary cavity.—J. M. C.

Endemic species and mutation.—WILLIS,²⁴ in following up the suggestions of his work upon the flora of Mt. Ritigala,²⁵ has constructed an argument against the origin of species by natural selection and in favor of origin by mutation. He maintains that the evidence of the endemic species on Mt. Ritigala, of Ceylon in general, of Mauritius, and of New Zealand completely proves his position.—J. M. C.

²¹ SCOTT, D. H., The following plants of the Mesozoic age, in the light of recent discoveries. *Jour. Roy. Micr. Soc.* 1907: 127-141. *pls.* 6-9.

²² ROBERTSON, AGNES, The Taxoideae: A phylogenetic study. *New Phytol.* 6:92-102. *pl. I.* 1907.

²³ COOK, MELVILLE THURSTON, The embryology of *Rhizophora Mangle*. *Bull. Torr. Bot. Club* 34:271-277. *pls. 22, 23.* 1907.

²⁴ WILLIS, J. C., Some evidence against the theory of the origin of species by natural selection of infinitesimal variations, and in favor of origin by mutation. *Annals Roy. Bot. Gard. Peradeniya* 4:1-15. 1907.

²⁵ BOT. GAZETTE 43:353. 1907.